

09/345090, entitled "Multilayered Apertured Film Wrapping Element for Absorbent Articles"; US Ser. No. 09/345089, entitled "Heterogeneous Apertured Film Wrapping Element for Absorbent Articles"; US Ser. No. 09/343760, entitled "Domed Tampon with Surfactant-Treated Cover"; US Ser. No. 60/141688, entitled "Sealing Roller and Sealing Roller Element, Particularly for Producing a Tampon for Feminine Hygiene and Method Therefore"; and US Ser. No. 60/141690, entitled "Tampon for Feminine Hygiene and Process and Apparatus for its Production", all filed June 30, 1999.

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 21-23 were originally filed in the present application and have been subjected a restriction requirement. Claims 21-23 have been elected for prosecution, and these claims have been rejected. Therefore, Claims 1-25 are pending in this application, however, only Claims 21-23 are currently under consideration.

Objections

The Office has objected to the declaration as being unsigned. During a brief telephonic interview on July 23, 2001, the undersigned pointed out that a signed declaration was filed on or about October 8, 1999, and the Examiner located the document in the file. Therefore, this objection is moot.

The Specification is objected to for missing information in the "Cross-reference to Related Applications" section. This paragraph has been amended, above, and Applicants believe that this objection is not moot.

Rejections

Claims 1-25 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by, or under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over, Friese, US Pat. No. 4,816,100. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The present invention relates to a method for the manufacture of a tampon, and it comprises several specific steps. The steps include (a) unwinding a web of liquid-permeable, thermoplastic apertured film, (b) forming a line of weakness comprising